2011 California Women Veteran Survey



1. How do you describe your military status? (Please check all that apply)

	Response Percent	
i%	4.5%	I am an active service member
3%	92.8%	I am a veteran
1%	8.9%	I am a reservist
·y)	Other (please specify)	
on	answered question	
on	skipped question	

2. What branch of service did/do you serve in? (Please check all that apply)

	Active Reserves		Response Count
Air Force	89.8% (185)	35.9% (74)	206
Army	90.3% (308)	33.4% (114)	341
Coast Guard	100.0% (25)	16.0% (4)	25
Marine Corps	91.5% (86)	29.8% (28)	94
National Guard	58.7% (44)	62.7% (47)	75
Navy	95.4% (248)	29.6% (77)	260
		answered question	907
		skipped question	13

3. How long did you serve/have you served in the military? (Please check one)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 2 years	7.0%	64
2-4 years	25.2%	229
4-6 years	16.4%	149
6-10 years	14.5%	132
Over 10 years	36.9%	335
	answered question	909
	skipped question	11

4. What time period(s) did you serve in the military?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Operation New Dawn (OND)	6.3%	57
Global War on Terrorism (OIF/OEF)	37.7%	339
Desert Storm/Shield	35.8%	322
Vietnam War	24.5%	220
Korean War	2.9%	26
wwii	4.1%	37
Peacetime – any other time not identified above	29.0%	261
	answered question	899
	skipped question	21

5. What was your rank upon separation?

Response Count

884

answered question	884
skipped question	36

6. What was your occupational specialty/job classification upon separation?

Response Count

874

answered question	874
skipped question	46

7. What is your age?

	Response Percent	Response Count
18-25	4.2%	37
26-30	8.4%	75
31-40	14.6%	130
41-50	18.1%	161
51-60	31.1%	277
61-70	14.5%	129
Over 71	9.1%	81
	answered question	890
	skipped question	30

8. What is your marital status?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Single	23.2%	208
Married	35.1%	315
Divorced	26.4%	237
Separated	2.6%	23
Widowed	7.9%	71
Domestic Parnership	4.9%	44
	answered question	898
	skipped question	22

9. Have you ever had a veteran spouse/partner?

	Response Percent	Response Count
I currently am with a veteran	29.8%	266
I currently am not with a veteran but I previously had a veteran spouse/partner	41.4%	370
I have never had a veteran spouse/partner	28.9%	258
	answered question	894
	skipped question	26

10. How many children under 18 do you have living at home?

	Response Percent	Response Count
0	75.6%	675
1	13.9%	124
2	7.3%	65
3	1.9%	17
4	1.0%	9
5	0.1%	1
6	0.0%	0
7	0.1%	1
8	0.1%	1
9 or more	0.0%	0
	answered question	893
	skipped question	27

11. What is your highest level of education?

	Response Percent	Response Count
High School/GED	15.2%	135
Trade School	7.9%	70
Associate's Degree	22.9%	204
Bachelor's Degree	29.0%	258
Master's Degree or Higher	25.1%	223
	answered question	890
	skipped question	30

12. What county do you live in?

County

	Alameda	Alpine	Amador	Butte	Calaveras
County of Residence	3.7% (32)	0.0%	0.0%	0.5% (4)	0.0% (0)

13. How would you describe where you live?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Urban	32.3%	288
Suburban	50.3%	448
Rural	17.4%	155
	answered question	891
	skipped question	29

14. When you separated from service, did you separate to a California residence?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	72.9%	623
No	27.1%	232
	answered question	855
	skipped question	65

15. Did you give permission for your discharge papers (Form DD 214) to be sent to California Department of Veterans Affairs (CALVET)?

		esponse Percent	Response Count
I don't remember		62.2%	532
Yes		17.9%	153
No		19.9%	170
	answered	question	855
	skipped	question	65

16. How often do you interact with the CALVET?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Never (please explain why in comments below)	51.1%	429
Rarely (once per year)	23.6%	198
Sometimes (more than once per year, but less than once per month)	16.0%	134
Often (once per month or more often)	9.3%	78

Comments:

482

skipped question 81

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/	OT	24

17. The State of California provides a variety of services and benefits for veterans. For the following State of California veterans benefits, please mark whether you have used each one and, if no, why not? Also, please give us comments that would help give further information on challenges you faced in receiving these benefits.

	I have used this benefit	I did not know about this benefit	I knew about this benefit but had challenges in receiving it	I knew about this benefit but I did not think I qualified for it	I knew about this benefit but I did not need to use it	Response Count
Business License, Tax and Fee Waiver	3.4% (28)	68.4% (557)	1.2% (10)	4.4% (36)	22.9% (186)	814
CALVET Farm and Home Loans	11.3% (92)	35.2% (287)	6.7% (55)	13.5% (110)	34.3% (280)	816
Claims Representative	20.3% (162)	50.4% (403)	7.0% (56)	4.4% (35)	19.0% (152)	800
College Non-Resident Fee Waiver	7.4% (59)	53.0% (424)	2.3% (18)	6.0% (48)	32.4% (259)	800
Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise	3.0% (24)	53.6% (429)	3.4% (27)	6.6% (53)	34.1% (273)	800
Employment and Unemployment Insurance Assistance	20.1% (162)	49.3% (398)	4.1% (33)	6.3% (51)	21.6% (174)	807
Fishing and Hunting License Fee Waivers	6.4% (52)	59.8% (487)	1.6% (13)	6.0% (49)	26.4% (215)	814
License Plates Fee Waiver	4.1% (33)	64.3% (523)	3.0% (24)	13.2% (107)	16.0% (130)	813
Property Tax Exemption	6.8% (55)	65.2% (528)	2.0% (16)	11.0% (89)	15.3% (124)	810
State Parks and Recreation Pass	12.8% (104)	59.9% (485)	1.7% (14)	9.9% (80)	15.9% (129)	810
Tuition Fee Waiver	15.4% (125)	56.2% (456)	2.7% (22)	8.9% (72)	17.6% (143)	812
Veterans Homes	11.0% (91)	33.0% (272)	3.6% (30)	11.2% (92)	42.2% (348)	825
Waiver of Motor Vehicle Registration Fees	3.8% (31)	67.5% (554)	2.7% (22)	14.4% (118)	11.9% (98)	821
					_	

answered question

Comments:

856

244

18. For the following Federal VA benefits, please mark whether you have received or claimed each one and, if no, why not?

	I have used this benefit	I did not know about this benefit	I knew about this benefit but had challenges in receiving it	I knew about this benefit but I did not think I qualified for it	I knew about this benefit but I did not need to use it	Response Count
Disability (Compensation or Pension)	45.4% (366)	9.9% (80)	11.8% (95)	12.6% (102)	21.2% (171)	807
Educational or Vocational	50.6% (408)	12.8% (103)	7.9% (64)	12.9% (104)	16.2% (131)	807
Employment Services	21.3% (167)	30.0% (235)	10.1% (79)	8.4% (66)	30.6% (240)	784
Home Loan	30.7% (245)	10.9% (87)	9.1% (73)	14.8% (118)	35.1% (280)	798
Medical or Dental	50.9% (418)	16.9% (139)	7.8% (64)	11.0% (90)	15.2% (125)	821
Mental Health Services	33.1% (266)	14.7% (118)	3.7% (30)	7.5% (60)	41.8% (336)	804
Readjustment Counseling (Vet Center)	12.9% (101)	28.3% (221)	5.5% (43)	8.5% (66)	44.9% (350)	780
Other (Please specify below)	12.8% (22)	30.8% (53)	6.4% (11)	4.1% (7)	45.9% (79)	172
					Comments:	149
				answe	ered question	841
				skip	ped question	79

19. When you have a question about your Federal VA benefits, what way(s) would you most prefer to access answers and help? Please rate the following means of communicating this information using the following scale:

	Not Useful	Somewhat Useful	Very Useful	Response Count
Toll-free Telephone Number	20.3% (161)	39.7% (315)	40.1% (318)	794
Email	15.3% (120)	33.8% (264)	50.9% (398)	782
Facebook, Twitter, Mobile Apps, etc.	49.9% (366)	31.8% (233)	18.3% (134)	733
Informational Website	9.5% (74)	35.8% (278)	54.6% (424)	776
Printed Materials/Claim Forms mailed to you	13.8% (108)	38.4% (301)	47.8% (374)	783
In-Person Consultation (for example, talking to someone at the CALVET or other veteran service organizations)	6.3% (50)	20.7% (165)	73.1% (583)	798
			Comments:	141

answered question 828
skipped question 92

20. Which of the following organizations do you depend on to keep you informed of your benefits and eligibility? Please check all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Permanent VA local assistance center	43.1%	243
Periodic mobile service	4.8%	27
Veteran service organization	62.9%	355
County veteran service office	32.3%	182
Employment Development Department	18.6%	105
	Other (please specify)	270
	answered question	564
	skipped question	356

21. Have you used your County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) for assistance/resources?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes (please comment on your experience below)	36.5%	299
No (Please explain your reasons below)	63.5%	520
	Comments:	617
	answered question	819
	skipped question	101

22. Have you used community veteran service organizations for assistance/resources?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes (please comment on your experience below)	35.2%	287
No (Please explain your reasons below)	64.8%	528
	Comments:	540
	answered question	815
	skipped question	105

23. Are you currently employed? (Please check all that apply)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes - Full-time	40.7%	334
Yes – Part-time	11.3%	93
Yes – Self-Employed	4.1%	34
No – Unemployed	45.4%	373

If you had any difficulties locating employment post discharge, please explain:

318

answered question 821
skipped question 99

24. Have you used State Employment Development Department (EDD) services available to veterans through EDD Workforce Services Offices and One-Stop Career Centers?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	33.8%	282
No – Do not know about services	28.5%	238
No – Do not need assistance	37.6%	314
	Comments:	139
	answered question	834

834	answered question	
86	skipped question	

25. Since your separation, have you had problems with housing?

	Respons Percent	_
No	66.79	% 559
Yes, but never homeless	19.39	% 162
Yes – Homeless for a period but currently have a home	9.99	% 83
Yes – Currently homeless	4.19	% 34

If you have experienced housing difficulties, please share your experiences:

159

answered question 838 skipped question 82

26. Using the following scale, please rate your current general health status:

	Response Percent	Response Count
1 - Very Poor (bottom 20%)	4.3%	36
2 – Somewhat Poor (bottom 20%-40%)	19.3%	161
3 - Average (middle 20%)	27.7%	231
4 - Good (top 20%-40%)	33.1%	276
5 - Excellent (top 20%)	15.6%	130
	answered question	834
	skipped question	86

27. Do you currently have a disability rating from the VA?

	Response Percent	Response Count
I have a service-related disability but have not yet filed for a disability rating from the VA	8.1%	66
I have a service-related disability and have filed a claim with the VA but have not received my disability rating yet	10.6%	87
I have received a disability rating from the VA	45.6%	373
I do not have a service-related disability	35.7%	292
	answered question	818
	skipped question	102

28. What disability rating have you received from the VA?

	Response Count
	333
answered question	333
skipped question	587

29. While serving in the military, did you experience problems or trauma related to your assigned duties?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes – Noncombat-related	50.7%	410
Yes - Combat-related	13.0%	105
No	40.8%	330
	Please explain:	356
	answered question	809

30. For the following list of medical conditions, please check which ones currently impact your health status and which are service-related.

	Currently Affecting My Health Status	Service Related	Response Count
Amputations	57.1% (4)	71.4% (5)	7
Head injuries	78.8% (67)	72.9% (62)	85
Musculoskeletal disorders	79.4% (224)	70.9% (200)	282
Adjusting to physical limitations	84.5% (175)	59.9% (124)	207
Cardiac issues	87.5% (70)	25.0% (20)	80
Diabetes	92.6% (63)	19.1% (13)	68
Lung problems	83.7% (72)	46.5% (40)	86
Urological problems	84.0% (42)	44.0% (22)	50
Gynecological problems	76.0% (98)	50.4% (65)	129
Sleep disorders	83.8% (249)	54.2% (161)	297
Anxiety	81.3% (260)	61.6% (197)	320
Depression	82.7% (268)	60.2% (195)	324
Sexual Assault/Military Sexual Trauma	71.4% (157)	76.4% (168)	220
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	74.2% (193)	75.0% (195)	260
Stressors of single parenting	77.7% (80)	41.7% (43)	103
Guilt for leaving family for deployment	66.7% (48)	68.1% (49)	72
Substance abuse	71.9% (41)	61.4% (35)	57
Other (Please specify below)	86.9% (86)	53.5% (53)	99

16 of 24

Comments:

answered question

217

31. While serving in the military, did you experience sexual harassment?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	60.7%	496
No	39.3%	321
	Commonto	

Comments: 221

answered question	817
skipped question	103

32. While serving in the military, did you experience any sexual assault or trauma?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	36.1%	294
No	63.9%	521

Comments:

answered question 815

130

skipped question 105

33. If you sought treatment for this trauma, how long after the first incident did you seek treatment and where?

	Response Percent	Response Count
How long after?	99.4%	173
Where?	83.9%	146
	answered question	174
	skipped question	746

34. Did you feel you received the services you needed?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	31.9%	73
No (Please explain below)	68.1%	156
	Comments:	140

answered question	229
skipped question	691

35. Prior to joining the military, did you experience emotional or physical neglect or abuse, or sexual assault/abuse?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	29.0%	235
No	71.0%	575
	Comments:	133
	answered question	810
	skipped question	110

36. If you have ever used the services of the Veterans Administration (VA) hospitals or clinics, please rate (in general) your experience of the services you received.

	Response Percent	Response Count
I have never used the services of the VA hospitals or clinics	25.4%	207
1 - Poor	6.1%	50
2 - Fair	8.1%	66
3 - Average	14.3%	117
4 - Good	26.1%	213
5 - Excellent	20.0%	163
Please explain the reason for your rating and specify what the VA could do to improve the experience:		356
	answered question	816
	skipped question	104

37. If you have never sought medical services at a VA facility, which of the following statements best describes why not?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Not eligible for service	33.9%	79
Facility is too far from residence	12.4%	29
Lack of transportation	1.3%	3
Appointment/scheduling delays	9.4%	22
Poor service or quality of care	13.3%	31
Prefer to use non-VA facility	29.6%	69
	Other (please specify)	157
	answered question	233
	skipped question	687

38. Which of the following best describes your health care insurance status?

	Response Percent	Response Count
I am currently enrolled in the VA Healthcare System	53.1%	422
I have private health care insurance through an employer or spouse	33.8%	269
I am enrolled in Medicare or Medi- Cal	8.9%	71
I do not have health care insurance and I am not enrolled in the VA	4.2%	33
	answered question	795
	skipped question	125

39. How far do you live from the closest VA medical facility or community based outpatient clinic (CBOC)?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Under 10 miles	32.1%	261
10-30 miles	42.5%	345
30-60 miles	14.0%	114
Over 60 miles	5.0%	41
I don't know	6.3%	51
	answered question	812
	skipped question	108

40. Given your means of transportation, would you consider the closest VA medical facility to be:

	Response Percent	Response Count
Very Accessible	57.0%	462
Somewhat Accessible	31.6%	256
Not Accessible	3.7%	30
I don't know how accessible it is	7.8%	63
	answered question	811
	skipped question	109

41. What challenges have you had making the transition from active duty?		
	Response Count	
	62 ⁻	
answered ques	tion 62	
skipped ques	tion 29	
42. What information or services do you wish you had available to you when you separated/transitioned from active duty?	J	
	Respons Count	
	60	
answered ques	tion 60	
skipped ques	tion 31	
43. What services do you need? What services or benefits should be provided	to address	
the needs of women veterans?		
tne needs of women veterans?	Respons Count	
tne needs of women veterans?	Count	
the needs of women veterans? answered ques	60	

44. Contact Information Response Response Percent Count Name: 94.9% 600 Address: 88.4% 559 City: 90.5% 572 State: 587 92.9% ZIP: 88.6% 560 Email Address: 90.8% 574 Phone Number: 75.5% 477 answered question 632 skipped question 288

45. MAY WE CONTACT YOU WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR SURVEY RESPONSES OR WITH INFORMATION ABOUT SERVICES?

	Response Percent	Response Count
YES, YOU MAY CONTACT ME IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT MY RESPONSES	85.8%	525
YES, I AM INTERESTED IN RECEIVING INFORMATION FROM CALVET ABOUT SERVICES FOR WOMEN VETERANS IN CALIFORNIA	80.1%	490
	answered question	612
	skipped question	308